Installation of UHF and VHF systems in Sikkim

1671. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has given sanction for installation of UHF and VHF system in order to link the District Head Quarters of Mangan, Namethi and Gyzing with the State Capital, Gangtok, Sikkim and with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, what has been the progress of work and when these are going to start functioning; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 3 UHF schemes sanctioned for linking the 3 District Head Quarters *viz.* Namchi, Gyzing and Mangan with Gangtok, the State capital of Sikkim.

(b) These 3 schemes are tentatively targetted for commissioning during 1988-89 subject to availability of land at different sites during this year and timely availability of the materials.

(c) Does not airse.

Coverage of population by the communications services

1672. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what percetnage of population of each State is covered by (i) Postal Services, (ii) Telegraphic Service, (iii) Telephone Service, (iv) Telex Service, (v) S.T.D. Service and other communications services, State-wise;

(b) what coverage by the said services is estimated at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(c) what is the number of people presently emplyed in various communication services mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) what are the likely employment potentials at the end of Seventh Five Year Plan in those services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Postal Services:

By the end of the Third Five Year Plan that is by 1966, the entire country had come under Postal Service with the total elimination of 'no-dak villages'. The present position is that a postal article or a money order addressed to/payable to persons residing anywhere in India is delivered or paid. The percentage of population covered by postal service can therefore be taken as cent per cent. No doubt, a large number of Post Offices have been opened year after year since 1966 also but the main objective has been to reduce the average area served by a Post Office so as to improve the delivery services.

2. Whereas in towns and cities, a number of Post Offices exist in each one of them, in rural areas the practice is that a certain number of villages are grouped together and a Post Office opened in one of the villages to serve as a common facility. The village Postman/ delivery agent attached to that Post Office visits the other villages within the group on practically a day to day basis to deliver postal articles, pay money orders sell postage stamps and stationery and to accept articles for despatch including registration of postal articles. As on 31-7-1986. 1,28,813 post Officers in rural areas and 15,747 Post offices is urban areas provided comprehensive Postal coverage to the whole country.

(c) and (d) Postal Services:

As on 31-3-1986, a total number of 5,91,561 persons, including extra-departmental agents were employed in the Postal Services. On account of the continuing ban on creation of new Posts and the present policy of creating new facilities/Post Offices maily by re-deployment of existing manpower resources, it is nit expected that the total workforce of the Department may show any significant increase over the present level at the end of the Seventh Plan. However, the newly introduced

Scheme of Licensed Postal Agents carried within itself a certain degree of self-employment potential though, since the Scheme is being developed according to requirements assessed from time to time and not to a pre-determined target, it is not practicable to quantify this self-employment potential as at the end of the Seventh Plan.

(a) to (d) *Telecommunication Services*: The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allotment of wavelength for information vending business

1673. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the present policy, Government allots a particular wavelength to private organisations for information vending and computerised data retrieval business through satellites, if so, what are the terms for allotment of wavelength giving other details in this regard; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider allotment of wavelengths for information vending business, in view of the overall information explosion world over; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. Allocations of a particular wavelength(s) or radio frequency channel(s) to private organisations for applactions like information vending, computerised data retrieval through satellite are not made. These requirements are met subject to technical feasibility, by the Department of Telecommunications or the Videsh Sanchar Nigam, on a commercial basis. The Department of Telecommunications and Videsh Sanchar Nigam are allotted wavelength(s) or radio frequency channel(s) for this purpose.

(b) Does not airse in view of (a) above.

Manufacture of pollution monitoring equipment

1674. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of industrial units in India engaged in manufacturing of pollution monitoring equipment;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage the industry manufacturing pollution monitoring equipment by giving special benefits and incentives in view of the importance assumed by pollution control measures; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage service agencies engaged exclusively in pollution-control and effluent management by giving special benefits and incentives; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether this Ministry has, in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, worked out any diploma or degree course in the areas of pollution control, effluent management and refuge-treatment, purification of toxic gases, relief and rescue operations in the event of environmental hazards etc.; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) A list of industrial units in the public and priavte sector whcih are engaged in the manufacturing of pollution monitoring equipment is given in the enclosed statement (*see* below). Instruments/equipments manufactured by these units relate to stack monitoring, ambient water and air quality monitoring and analysis of inorganic and organic chemicals.

(b) and (c) There is no scheme for providing special benefits and incentives to the industry manufacturing pollution control equipment and service agencies engaged in pollution control and effluent management. However, incentives in terms of tax rebate and loans at reduced rates of interest are provided to the industries for installation of pollution control equipment;